

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, the specification has been amended to reflect the current status of the parent application, as requested by the Examiner on page 6 of the Action, and claim 14 has been further amended to emphasize that the cationic particulate emulsion consists essentially of the copolymer of an alkyl(meth)acrylate and an amino group containing (meth)acrylate monomer. By so reciting this aspect of the present invention, it will further be clear to those of ordinary skill in the art that the particles are not crosslinked as explained on page 6 of the previously filed Amendment. Since this feature was previously argued, applicants respectfully submit that the present Amendment is proper in all respects, particularly since the claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons which follow.

The present Amendment also cancels claims 17 and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer thereby rendering moot the rejection of claim 18 in paragraph 2 of the Action. As to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 set forth in paragraph 5. of the Action, applicants note that the specification does not describe a material that requires (A), (B) and (C), but instead provides full enablement for a material that is prepared by copolymerizing only (A) and (B). First, the specification explicitly describes that the amount of monomer (C) can be 0 wt% (see page 16, lines 16-22 of the specification and original claim 4) which makes it clear that (C) can be completely absent. In addition, Example 1 on page 28 of the specification illustrates one embodiment of the invention wherein polymerization is conducted without a component (C). More specifically, methyl methacrylate and n-butyl acrylate are used as component (A) and N,N-dimethylaminopropylacrylamide is used as component (B). The other materials described in Example 1 are a dispersing agent (stearyl-trimethylammonium chloride) and a polymerization initiator (2,2'-azobis(2-

amidinopropane) dihydrochloride). Thus, it should be clear to those of ordinary skill in the art that this Example and the invention does not require the presence of (C) and that the §112 rejection should accordingly be withdrawn.

Turning to the prior art rejections, both of which are based on EP 802245, this publication discloses cationic fine particles consisting essentially of a crosslinked resin. For instance, the passage at page 3, lines 45-46 specifically states: "When the monofunctional monomer is used, a crosslinking agent or crosslinking oligomer having an acryl group at its molecular chain terminal must be used in combination." In contrast to this specific requirement in the '245 publication, the cationic particulate component of the present invention is prepared by copolymerizing (A) an alkyl(meth)acrylate and (B) an amino group containing (meth)acrylate monomer to obtain a cationic particulate emulsion consisting essentially of copolymerized (A) and (B) which does not provide a crosslinked resin. Therefore, since the '245 publication does not disclose or teach the claimed invention and in fact requires crosslinking, it is without question that this document cannot be used to anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed invention.

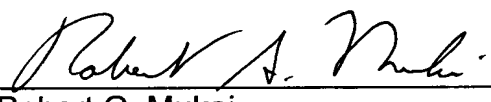
Further supporting the conclusion that the present invention is substantially different from the teachings of the '245 publication is the understanding that the present invention can provide improvements in various properties such as gloss, ink absorbency, color density, water resistance, light resistance and anti-yellowing. The '245 publication is silent with respect to gloss, light resistance and anti-yellowing thereby indicating a failure to appreciate these important advantages which can be obtained from the present invention.

For all of the reasons set forth above, applicants respectfully submit that the claims of record are patentable over the cited prior art and therefore request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of the present application, she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: 
Robert G. Mukai
Registration No. 28,531

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-662

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